

IN THE SPECIFICATIONS

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 15, which starts with "At step S111", with the following amended paragraph:

β1 ---At step S111 an exposure compensation factor K is calculated by dividing a predetermined appropriate value (predetermined value) by the average of all the brightness values obtained at step S110 by a predetermined appropriate value (predetermined value). In the case where each data such as pixel data is processed to be expressed by an eight binary digit, since the maximum luminance is 255, the predetermined appropriate value is, e.g., 120, which is roughly half of the maximum luminance. Accordingly, if the average of all the brightness values is 100, the exposure compensation factor K is equal to 120 divided by 100, namely, 1.2 ($K=120/100=1.2$). At step S112 a third exposure time is calculated by multiplying the first exposure time by the exposure compensation factor K. For instance, if the first exposure time and the exposure compensation factor K are 1 second and 1.2, respectively, the third exposure time is 1.2 seconds.---
